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PARTY REPRESENTATIVES OF OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES MEET

PA152150 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 1255 GMT 15 Feb 80 PA

[Felix Narvaez interview with Carlos Morales; Jorge (Priza), secretary general of Mexico's Popular Socialist Party; Pompeyo Marquez of Venezuela's Movement to Socialism; Carlos Gallardo of Guatemala's Socialist Democratic Party; and Dr Rafael Marquez Moreno of Ecuador's Concentration of Popular Forces--no date given; presumably recorded]

[Text] [Narvaez] The news department of Radio Quito (?and) the newspaper EL COMERCIO issued the following report on the permanent conference of Latin American political parties that opened here yesterday. We are reporting from the (Ciespal) [not further identified] Building. Here is conference official Carlos Morales. We would like to know what countries are attending the conference.

[Morales] Mexico, Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru and Guatemala. Each delegation is made up of political party members. The parties from Mexico are the Institutional Revolutionary Party, the Socialist Workers Party and the Authentic Party of the Mexican Revolution; from Guatemala are the United Revolutionary Front and the Socialist Democratic Party [Partido Socialista Democratico]; from Peru, the APRA; from Ecuador, the Concentration of Popular Forces [CFP] and the Democratic Left; and from Venezuela the Democratic Action, the Peoples Electoral Movement and the Movement to Socialism [MAS].

[Narvaez] Oil as a political weapon. We will hear remarks by Jorge (Priza), secretary general of Mexico's Popular Socialist Party [as heard]:

[Priza] I think this conference of the progressive Latin American parties to discuss oil is historically important because the Latin American oil-producing countries are being pressured by the transnational companies. They would like us to turn over our oil resources without restraint and under whatever conditions they set. The oil of these countries should be used within the overall strategy of the struggle for national independence, the social progress of the people, and democratic development. In this way the people of each oil-producing country will have a better material and spiritual standard of living.

[Narvaez] How should oil be administered in America? Here is Pompeyo Marquez of Venezuela's MAS:

[Marquez] This is the major topic of discussion in Venezuela now. MAS is opposed to the incumbent administration and advocates reorganizing society so it can be developed democratically with the participation of the people and so that wealth can be used as the majority wants. MAS feels Venezuela's example should be analyzed and studied in depth by the oil-producing (?and importing) countries of this continent. Venezuela has the reputation of being a rich, multimillionaire nation. If we bear in mind the size of the population, the per capita income, and the oil revenue, we could say that the reputation is true. But at the same time there is a big gap. When distributed, this wealth has favored traditional local and international economic groups and created new groups of multimillionaires.

[Narvaez] "No Victory Without Unity" reads a poster at the Latin American political parties conference. What does Guatemala think about this as far as oil is concerned? Here is Carlos Gallardo of the Socialist Democratic Party:

[Gallardo] This meeting is being held in Ecuador under the motto, "Latin America for Latin Americans."

Latin America's energy reserves must first of all be for Latin America, and the surplus can then be used for the development of other countries. But I think it is incompatible for powerful countries to develop with our energy resources. That is why the motto, "No Victory Without Unity," is very clear-cut. It is being followed now. The Latin American countries are united in their struggle for social, political and economic demands. That is part of this meeting.

[Narvaez] Here is Dr Rafael Marquez Moreno of the CFP. Doctor, what is happening with Ecuador's oil and how does your party regard this situation?

[Marquez Moreno] My party contends that Ecuador and the other [words indistinct] countries have to be convinced that the oil-producing countries gathered here have to defend oil so the non-oil-producing countries can have priority over the oil produced by these five countries. Secondly, oil must first be conserved so it will not be consumed [words indistinct] and so in a few decades we may be left without [words indistinct]. Ecuador [words indistinct] some special points on the oil situation here.

ARGENTINA TO BACK CHILE IN GENEVA RIGHTS DEBATES

FY182228 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1600 GMT 18 Feb 80 FY

[Excerpt] Geneva, 18 Feb (TELAM-AFP)--A Buenos Aires government official stated here today that Argentina will vote against any proposal on Chile pursuant to the Montevideo Agreement the two countries signed under the Holy See's mediation. In the agreement, they vowed to observe absolute nonintervention and discretion in their mutual affairs until the Holy See concludes its mediation in their dispute over southern territories. These remarks were made here by Enrique J. Ros, the Argentine representative to the UN Human Rights Commission, 48 hours before the opening of debates on alleged human rights violations in Chile.

Asked whether the Argentine delegation's condemnation of the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan was designed to obtain the support of Third World countries, especially the Islamic countries, Ros said: The Argentine vote was in keeping with its 9 January official statement in which it harshly criticized the Soviet military intervention. The Argentine communique was issued before the decision adopted by the sixth special UN General Assembly.

Throughout its history, Ros added, Argentina has condemned foreign military intervention because it endured it itself. The attempt to speculate on it (the Argentine condemnation) is another maneuver of anti-Argentine groups. Argentina belongs in the Third World and is a full member of the movement of nonalined countries. Its votes have always been in keeping with the solidarity commonly practiced within the United Nations.

Ros gave a blunt reply to charges made by a French politician that the USSR and Argentina have been helping each other within the Human Rights Commission to protect their commercial interests. He said: It is false. The accusers themselves charged the Argentine Government with being a puppet of U.S. capitalism. Argentina and the Soviet Union have been maintaining normal, open trade and technological relations for a long time.

Ros added: Have those sources forgotten that European trade with and financial assistance to eastern countries and the Soviet Union is much greater than Argentine trade with the Soviet Union?

FOREIGN MINISTER DECRIES U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT

PY181502 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2020 GMT 17 Feb 80 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 Feb (NA)--Argentine Foreign Minister Carlos Washington Pastor has stated that the U.S. State Department report on human rights in Argentina "is full of inaccuracies," and added that the number of missing persons computed on the basis of international charges is "completely ridiculous."

"It is absurd and can be attributed only to ill-intended rumors of international organizations lacking objectivity, such as Amnesty International," Minister Pastor said when asked about reports that there are 15,000 missing persons in Argentina. "Anyone who knows anything about Argentina's situation," Pastor said, "will realize that such reports are completely ridiculous."

The foreign minister made these remarks in Punta del Este, Uruguay, to a correspondent of the Buenos Aires daily CRONICA, which published them in today's fifth edition. Minister Pastor also indicated that Argentina will attend the Moscow Olympic games, "because not attending them would be a pointless and therefore unnecessary measure, although I would like to make it clear that we are strongly anticommunist."

With regard to the U.S. State Department report, he said that "it did not surprise us, on account of prior attitudes of the U.S. Government." He added: "Our conscience is clear, and we are sure that the report is full of inaccuracies; and that is why it has been publicly released, which is the best way to prove its inconsistency, since the truth refutes all the charges."

Ministry Denies Comments

PY181755 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1646 GMT 18 Feb 80 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Feb (TELAM)--The Argentine Foreign Ministry has denied the remarks which Minister Carlos Pastor allegedly made to a Uruguayan [as received] publication, and which were released in this capital today, concerning the U.S. State Department report on human rights and the attendance of an Argentine delegation at the Moscow Olympic games.

In response to journalists' queries regarding the veracity of the Uruguayan report, the Foreign Ministry indicated that the foreign minister had not been asked for an interview, nor did he grant one during his stay in Uruguay. The Foreign Ministry communique concluded by stating that the interpretation of what had been said during an informal talk with a group of persons, among whom was a journalist, is the exclusive responsibility of those who make it.

HERALD Defends Report

PY191800 Buenos Aires HERALD in English 19 Feb 80 p 8 PY

[Editorial: "Completely Ridiculous?"]

[Text] Ever since critical reports of the overall situation in the country under the military authorities began to be printed the government has sustained that it is the victim of a malicious smear campaign by foreign leftists and runaway subversives. But few of its statements have been quite so trenchant as those attributed to Foreign Minister Carlos Washington Pastor last weekend. According to the brigadier, the U.S. State Department's survey of the situation here was "completely ridiculous" and "plagued with errors," and it is ridiculous to claim that "15,000" people have "disappeared in the country for political reasons" in the last few years. "Reality," said Pastor, "disproves all the accusations" the report contains.

This is a sweeping condemnation indeed. While the report no doubt has its share of errors--"15,000" was merely mentioned as one of the many different figures for the number of "disappeared" being banied around--it is hard to believe that everthing it contains is just a pack of lies or that even Pastor would disagree with EVERTHING in it, such as the laudatory sentence "coruption in the public sector has declined significantly under the present government," which is only one of many giving credit where it is due.

If the report is as absurd as Pastor says, then it should be easy enough to prove it, thus ending once and for all the "anti-Argentine campaign." As the government thinks there is nothing at all to hide there should be no obstacle in the way of setting up a special commission of prominent and indpendent Argentine jurists of varying political views to make a thorough investigation into each and every "disappearance" that has been reported, starting with the better-known cases involving such people as Hector Hidalgo Sola, Rodolfo Fernandez Pondal, Edgardo Sajon, and then moving on to make an exhaustive investigation of the thousands of other cases. An independent commission could also probe all the many allegations of torture that are being made, and make unannounced spot checks on jails and military barracks where people are allegedly being held to see if the "continued abuse" charged in the report is real or just sick fantasy. Once this task has been finished the commission could make inquiries into the large number of corpses that were discovered in 1976.

The report, like Pastor's comments on it, consisted largely of generalizations which naturally fail to reflect the complexity of the situation in Argentina today. But these generalizations covered a large number of specific charges that should, in an organized society, be fully examined by a judiciary independent of the government. Far too many incidents in Argentina's past have not been properly investigated and this has led to a situation in which rumour and allegation have taken over from fact, and heated affirmations are regarded as being of value in themselves without any reference at all to what has actually happened and is happening. If the government is as convinced as Brigadier Pastor seems to be that everything contained in the State Department's survey is false then it should set about proving it, and it should put no barriers in the way of those who simply want to discover the truth.

SOVIET EXPERTS AID IN NUCLEAR PELLET TUBE MANIFACTURE

PY160037 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 15 Feb 80 p 19 PY

[By correspondent Rosenthal Calmon Alves]

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires--Vice Adm Carlos Castro Madero, chairman of the Argentine National Atomic Energy Commission, has said that Argentina may supply special seamless [zircaloy] tubes earmaked for carrying uranium pellets in Brazilian nuclear plants within the framework of the overall cooperation system which is being negotiated between the two countries.

The factory to make these special tubes is being built at Ezeiza, near Buenos Aires, under the technical advice of Soviet experts. This is the only known case of Moscow's cooperating with the Argentine nuclear program which, like the Brazilian nuclear program, has been the target of U.S. pressure.

INTERIOR MINISTER UNCOVERS 'ULTRARIGHTIST PLOT'

PA160441 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0415 GMT 16 Feb 80 PA

[Text] La Paz, 15 Feb (EFE)--Interior Minister Jorge Selum has reported the existence of a subversive ultrarightist plan to create a power vacuum and undermine confidence in the government in order to justify "an armed action."

The minister inspected the damage caused by a bomb which exploded at the offices of Radio Altiplano at approximately 0100 (2100 GMT) today.

Spokesmen for the fire department reported that the bomb was placed by five or six persons in disguise who struck Nicolas Quinones, the operator on duty, and left a photograph with the inscription of the People's Workers Revolutionary Party [Partido Revolucionario de los Trabajadores del Pueblo].

Selum said the attack "is part of a vast subversive plan which includes acts of sabotage and intimidation in the cities of La Paz, Santa Cruz, Cochabamba and Oruro." He accused the ultraright of fomenting this subversive climate but warned that the government will inflexibly apply the law to guarantee social peace within the democratic process.

In another quarter, news sources reported that a military contingent has raided the Virgin of Fatima Parish in Tarija, 800 km south of here. According to the report, the contingent confiscated an unspecified number of copies of the book, "The All-Saints Massacre," which was recently published by the Bolivian Permanent Human Rights Assembly. The book was being sold by the priests. The book details, with numerous photographs, the events of the unsuccessful coup d'etat staged by Col Alberto Natusch Busch in November. The abortive coup interrupted the country's democratic process for 16 days and left, according to the human rights assembly, 200 dead and another 200 each wounded and missing. According to the report, the military explained that the book is "subversive" and highly offensive to the armed forces.

Msgr Abel Costas, bishop of Tarija, will lodge a formal protest with the authorities with respect to this incident.

LA PAZ MEDIA CEASE OPERATIONS TO PROTEST VIOLENCE

PY152259 [Editorial Report PY] La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish at 1700 GMT on 15 February 1980 reports: "The social communications media of the country will suspend their activities between 1330 and 2400 today to protest the attack on Radio Altiplano by unknown persons yesterday. At 1330 all La Paz radio stations should go into network with Radio Panamericana to release a joint communique by the Bolivian Radio Broadcasting Association and the Radio and Television Workers Confederation."

At 1730 GMT, after the end of the newscast, the following communique is read twice:

Joint communique:

"In view of the attacks committed in this country lately, particularly against some social communications media, the Bolivian Radio Broadcasting Association (ASBORA) and the Radio and Television Workers Confederation (COTRATEX) address the country.

"1. We deplore the attacks committed lately against social communications media in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Riveralta, Oruro and La Paz with the aim of destabilizing our democracy and attacking the freedom of expression, a fundamental right in this country.

"2. We demand that Interior Ministry officials investigate the attacks, detain the planners and perpetrators of the attacks and publish a full report on the events within 25 days from today. Otherwise, we will take more energetic steps in defense of democracy, our sources of work and the basic rights of our people.

"3. We emphasize that the social communications media which have been attacked in actions contrary to democratic coexistence should receive indemnities from the interim constitutional government to compensate for the damage they have suffered.

"4. We demand from the commander of the national police protection by uniformed policemen for all social communications media of the country to prevent a repetition of irresponsible deeds like those committed in various parts of the country lately.

"5. We have decided to totally suspend radio transmissions in La Paz from 1330 to 2400 today and also suspend state television transmissions from 2030 to 2400 today as a sign of our repudiation of the vandalism by antinational agents who seek to destroy our present democratic coexistence.

"La Paz, 15 February 1980."

The announcer then states: "Ladies and gentlemen, dear listeners: As of now the La Paz radio stations suspend their transmissions until 2400 today for the reasons just given in the joint communique broadcast over this network, after which the station goes off the air at 1740 GMT."

Press Association Issues Communique

PY161446 La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 16 Feb 80 PY

[Text] The National Press Association has released the following communique:

In view of the terrorist attacks by reactionary forces on Radio Altiplano and other news organs, the National Press Association announces to the public:

1. Its protest of the criminal deed and its repudiation of the base behavior of those who, wheltered by the unfortunate lack of guarantees in the country, have resorted to terrorism in an attempt to silence the news media and free expression.

2. It warns that if this type of action against the institutions which are part of the national heritage continues, the nation is in danger of facing times and fruitless confrontations.

3. It asks the government to undertake a thorough and immediate investigation of this and other deeds which threaten the freedom of the press and to punish accordingly the perpetrators.

4. In view of the latent danger to the news media represented bu such criminal acts, the association asks the government to instruct the police to protect the offices and printing shops of all the news organs of the country with uniformed guards.

La Paz, 15 February 1980.

[Signed] Jorge Carrasco, director of EL DIARIO; Huascar Cajias, director of PRESENCIA; Armando Mariaca, codirector and manager of PRESENCIA; (Jaime Rios Chacon), director of JORNADA; (Hilda Rios de Carrera), manager of JORNADA; (Rene Estenssoro), director of HOY; Jaime Humeres, codirector and manager of HOY; (Jose Carranz), director of (SIC); (Mariano Estisa Gumushi), director of ULTIMA HORA; (Carlos Canela), director of LOS TIEMPOS, Cochabamba; and (Enrique Mirayes), director of LA PATRIA, Oruro.

Press Workers Union Communique

PY161436 La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 16 Feb 80 PY

[Text] The La Paz Press Workers Union issued a communique today in which it strongly condemned the repeated attacks against social communications organs such as the magazine AQUI and Radio Altiplano. The communique is signed by (Jose Luis Ortiz), (Oscar Gutierrez), (Felix Espinoza), (Lucio Flores), (Raul Buton) and (Nataniel Alvarez), leaders of the La Paz Press Workers Union. The communique reads as follows: We demand that the Interior Ministry and the appropriate organizations investigate the reported incidents and guarantee the freedom of action for the union and the press provided for by the Constitution.

Radio Condemns Media Attacks

PY152111 La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 15 Feb 80 PY

[Station editorial]

[Text] In accordance with the concepts of the full validity of civic guarantees and mutual respect, we have always said that the country needs to live in a climate of peace, order and tranquility. We firmly maintain that the time has come to put an end to personal, political and ideological rancor and enter a stage of true democracy in which there is respect for human rights and guarantees for the freedoms of men and institutions. Unfortunately, there are elements trying to foment violence, terrorism, force and intimidation with the hidden aim of disrupting the institutional process of the fatherland. Because of this attitude, condemned by Bolivian society, there have been several terrorist attacks in the last few months. It is true that no lives have been lost in these attacks, but it is no less true that a climate of tension, fear and distrust is being created.

In the last few weeks, several private homes became targets of terrorism, and the bombs planted in them caused not only panic but a natural fear for the lives of innocent people. During the last 10 days, there have been two new terrorist attacks; this time the victims were a weekly magazine and a local radio station. It should be assumed that the two attacks did not have the exclusive purpose of silencing these news media, but rather were aimed at spreading terror and creating an atmosphere of chaos to disrupt the democratic process in the country.

Gentlemen: Radio Panamericana severely condemns the two attacks, which were both aimed against the freedom of expression and civic guarantees; it demands from the government not only a thorough investigation but also the application of harsh punishment to those who are found guilty of the abominable acts. The fact that the country is living in a climate of democracy and freedom does not mean that [word indistinct] situation should be accepted, which can be tolerated only in an atmosphere of barbarity and evil. We state our solidarity with the magazine AQUI and with Radio Altiplano and confirm our total rejection of all forms of self-seeking and criminal violence.

ITAMARATY COOL ON NEW MILITARY ACCORDS WITH U.S.

PY181711 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 17 Feb 80 p 2 PY

[Text] Contrary to insistent rumors in diplomatic circles, the signing of new military agreements with the United States is not on the Itamaraty priority list in its relations with Washington, even on bases different from those which the Geisel government unilaterally denounced in March 1978 as the result of a diplomatic crisis which was created by U.S. interference in human rights questions in Brazil and U.S. pressures exerted against the Brazil-FRG nuclear agreement. Comments have been heard in Brasilia to the effect that the denounced agreements were already under review by military authorities, even before the crisis with the United States broke out, because they had ceased to have any significance. The military agreements were considered outdated, since they were signed at the time of the Korean War.

Nobody thinks that the lack of military agreements with the United States has reduced the operational capability of the Brazilian armed forces or rendered them incapable of fulfilling their constitutional mission; rather, the cancellation of military agreements with the United States has served to promote the development of a domestic arms industry, and today the appropriate military sectors are seeking more realistic ways to replace foreign assistance.

The conviction exists that importing military equipment does not resolve the country's problems in the military area, and that the country should rely on its own resources and try to develop them independently. Diplomatic and military circles point out that military relations with the United States are not interrupted at present. These relations are being maintained at an adequate level and intensity, obviating the need for new military agreements.

The fact that the military attache posts in Washington and Brasilia have recently been entrusted to officers with the rank of general is not interpreted as the first step toward a normalization of military relations between the two countries, for the simple reason that they are considered normal already.

Routine contacts between Brazilian and U.S. officers and occasional joint maneuvers continue. Contacts are not being avoided, but it is not in Brazil's interest to commit itself to a situation similar to that existing before, which Brazilian Government circles consider a thing of the past.

A new military agreement with the United States at this time, when the United States is giving military connotations to its diplomacy inside and outside the continent, is not in Brazil's interest. During the Nicaraguan crisis, the U.S. Department of State floated the idea of a peace force, an idea which was firmly opposed by the Latin American countries.

The Brazilian Government does not want to take any step which might lead to commitments of that sort; and even if it did assume such commitments, the country would not be in a position to fulfill them, because it needs to maintain its positions abroad and because such commitments would make the country even more economically vulnerable.

MINISTER SAYS NUCLEBRAS BUDGET SET BY FIGUEIREDO

PY151242 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 14 Feb 80 p 25 PY

[Text] Brasilia (O GLOBO)--Mines and Energy Minister Cesar Cals stated yesterday that the 15.1-billion-cruzeiros budget established for NUCLEBRAS [Brazilian Nuclear Corporation] "is sufficient for the company's investment program this year, including the fuel cycle program."

Cals stated that the NUCLEBRAS budget was established according to guidelines set by President Figueiredo. "The ceiling has been established according to a proposal made by NUCLEBRAS itself," he said.

Nevertheless, a NUCLEBRAS source had confirmed that NUCLEBRAS had asked for 19 billion cruzeiros. In a written answer to reporters, Minister Cals stated that the 15.1-billion-cruzeiro NUCLEBRAS budget "is included among the priority allocations previously approved by the mines and energy and planning ministries."

2-3-Year Delay Seen

PY161723 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1545 GMT 16 Feb 80 PY

[Text] According to a high-ranking source of the Mines and Energy Ministry, the Brazilian nuclear program will be delayed 2 or 3 years because of cuts in the budget of the Brazilian Nuclear Corporation. The same source pointed out, however, that the fact that the program will be delayed does not mean that it will not be implemented in full.

The official acknowledged that the slowdown in the implementation of the program is a result of the government's anti-inflationary policy, which has led to a reduction of federal allocations for all programs and projects.

COMMENTATOR SAYS U.S. MAKING CONCESSIONS TO IRAN

PY161759 Sao Paul Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 16 Feb 80 PY

[By Newton Carlos]

[Text] Secret negotiations are underway between the United States and Iran. U.S. President Carter is feeling optimistic. Carter has written two secret letters to the Ayatollah Khomeyni. These letters, whose full contents are unknown, reflect Carter's urgent interest in resolving the crisis between his country and Iran.

Once the crisis is over, once the 50 hostages who are being held at the U.S. Embassy in Iran are free, the Soviet Union will be even more isolated. Khomeyni has stated that the crisis benefits only the Soviet Union. Carter's most urgent interest is to isolate the Soviet Union--which seems to have strengthened its military occupation of Afghanistan--as much as possible.

The long-term goal behind the U.S. efforts to solve its problems with Iran is to achieve rapprochement with a country which once was and can again be the world's second-ranking oil exporter. The United States is already making concessions. It has agreed to have the former shah's crimes investigated by an international commission and seems to be ready to unfreeze the billions which Iran has on deposit in U.S. banks.

Carter is optimistic, but the Iranians are not satisfied with what the United States has offered so far. However, the secret negotiations are continuing.

FERAUD VIEWS POLITICAL ISSUES, TRIAL OF EX-TRIUMVIRS

PA152109 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 1255 GMT 15 Feb 80 PA

[Excerpts] Government Minister Carlos Feraud believes Ecuador's democracy is reviving after 9 years of dictatorship and is not taking any chances. However, he admitted the need to promote a major front to defend and strengthen the system so any destabilization effort will fizzle out. He added that the front is not looking for support for the incumbent administration but rather to strengthen the democratic system so it can last 40 years or more.

Feraud yesterday participated in Radio Quito's "Frente a Frente" program with Fausto Cordobes, a former defense minister and former head of the planning board; Senator Raul Vaca Carbo of the Democratic Left; and Jose Chavez, president of the Ecuadorean Confederation of Free Trade Union Organizations.

Concerning the recent student disturbances that generated an apparent climate of political instability, Minister Feraud agreed they were caused by the deterioration of the family budget. However, he explained that students were the tool of a conspiracy. He said neither the labor organizations nor the people have taken to the streets in opposition to the government, but they have opposed speculators and the high cost of living. In any event, he said, President Roldos is determined to uphold the will of the people and bring the country out of a state of social injustice, indifference by the majority, and poverty of the peasantry. The will of the people will not be thwarted by anybody, he stressed, although he did not set a date for the implementation of measures to benefit the people.

Minister Feraud was asked about an alleged appeal to the armed forces by former Triumvirs Poveda, Duran and Leoro in three communiques. He said this was an effort on their part to defend themselves. He voiced his confidence in the current armed forces' position of support for the democracy which they promoted. He said the government does not see any obstacle to or oppose an eventual trial of the former triumvirs in the House of Representatives.

Union leader Chavez felt the former triumvirs' communiques made veiled threats. He said that if they are tried, it will not be just because they are in the military but because of the many serious mistakes they made while in office. Vaca Carbo agreed that the armed forces should not think the institution is on trial as such but rather those among its members who may be responsible for committing crimes.

Meanwhile, Attorney General Nicolas Parducci approved a request for criminal proceedings against former government leaders Alfredo Poveda and Guillermo Duran Arcentales. The request was made by the special investigations committee of the parliament based on a communique by the former rulers that may involve a possible crime against state security. The trials will be handled by the supreme court.

Opens Dialog With MPD

PA171549 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 17 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Government Minister Carlos Feraud Blum has begun a political dialog with the Popular Democratic Movement [MPD], which follows the Beijing-Albanian line. The dialog is aimed at stabilizing our democratic and institutional system, which the country must reaffirm after 9 years of dictatorship, the longest in our national history.

The dialog began yesterday at 1730. Six MPD members led by their national director, Jose Sanchez Anchundia, represented the political organization. The government minister allowed newsmen in for a brief period.

In assuming his duties as government minister, Feraud, who is also the political minister, said he thought it was essential to hold talks and meetings with the country's political leaders. I believe in dialog, he added, because I think that through this exchange of opinions and views we will be able to find the best solutions.

I think that since returning to the constitutional order required such a big effort after a long dictatorial period, Ecuadoreans must exhaust all opportunities to strengthen this system. This system should not only consist of a formal democracy marked by the periodical election of magistrates, but should also consist of a democracy marked by a true and effective participation of all of the country's representative sectors.

ESMERALDAS OIL REFINERY TO BE EXPANDED

PA171635 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 17 Feb 80 PA

[Text] The expansion of the state-owned Esmeraldas refinery will be one of the first works undertaken within the framework of the Ecuadorean State Petroleum Corporation's national industrialization plan.

The project calls for increasing the plant's current capacity by 25,000 to 35,000 barrels per day to a total of between 80,000 and 90,000 barrels of crude oil per day. Although it has not been specified when these efforts will be carried out, it has been estimated that this expansion will be ready in 18 months, even before the new refinery, for which there are construction plans, begins operating.

The capacity of the Esmeraldas refinery will be expanded by 50 percent. At present the plant produces 55,000 barrels per day. The plant began its formal operations 4 years ago and immediately it was estimated that due to a lack of planning, the production of oil derivatives would meet the country's needs for only 2 years. At present we import most of our basic fuels, exchanging them for crude oil. The government has increased the subsidy on the sale prices of these derivatives. It cost about 3 billion sucres to build the Esmeraldas refinery. The money was obtained from what was known at the time as the National Development Fund and from foreign sources.

Meanwhile, in El Oro Province it has been charged that large quantities of Ecuadorean gasoline have continued to flow into Peru. The responsible authorities should look into this matter in order to prevent this loss of Ecuadorean gasoline.

WORKERS DEMAND DEROGATION OF SOCIETY SECURITY LAW

PA191414 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 Feb 80 PA

[Text] The committee for the defense of democratic rights of workers demands the derogation of the society security law. The committee said in a press communique that the law is an expression of Latin American militarism and U.S. counterinsurgency strategy.

The communique says that the law has permitted the dictatorships in recent years to create institutions which maintain that modernization can produce great benefits even if it means violating human rights, eliminating the right to strike, paralyzing agrarian reform and generalizing repression.

GOVERNMENT DENIES COLLABORATION WITH U.S. ON EL SALVADOR

PA152324 Caracas VENPRES in Spanish 2235 GMT 15 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Caracas, 15 Feb (VENPRES)--The Venezuelan Foreign Ministry, in a communique issued this morning, denied news reports to the effect that Venezuela and Washington are discussing a military action in El Salvador "to contain leftist attacks."

The communique says: "The Government of Venezuela, in view of reports appearing in the press today, 15 February 1980, regarding a military action in El Salvador in which the Republic of Venezuela would reportedly participate in conjunction with the United States of America, informs the public that this report is untrue. The government takes advantage of this opportunity to state the following:

"1. The Venezuelan Government confirms its support for the principles of nonintervention, respect for human rights and the self-determination of peoples.

"2. The conversations underway between the Republic of Venezuela and the United States of America are the normal talks held by two countries which maintain relations. They have not dealt with and cannot deal with actions that would violate the principle of nonintervention.

"3. The Government of Venezuela reaffirms its willingness to help in the search for peaceful paths and solutions that will guarantee a democratic outcome to the serious situation being experienced by the Republic of El Salvador.

"4. The Government of Venezuela appeals for common sense and sound thinking so democracy will prevail in El Salvador's future and in order to avoid the errors and horrors of a civil war with its serious consequences that should be avoided at all costs."

TALKS BEING HELD TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH CUBA

PA140406 Paris AFP in Spanish 0205 GMT 14 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Caracas, 13 Feb (AFP)--Venezuela and Cuba have been talks over the past few days aimed at normalizing their relations, which have been strained over differing views on the right of asylum, it was officially reported tonight.

Venezuelan Acting Foreign Minister Oswaldo Paez Pumar revealed that Cesar Rondon Lovera, Venezuelan ambassador to Havana, has held talks with Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca and Norberto Hernandez, Cuban ambassador to Venezuela.

Paez Pumar said these talks are being held with the normalcy and appropriate pace of a negotiation that is difficult because of its nature and within the difficulties inherent in the relations between our two countries, which have a different way of seeing the world. He gave little importance to the fact that the Cuban ambassador has not returned to Caracas while the Venezuelan ambassador remains in Havana, saying that each country makes its own decisions and that the facts of the case are due more to press speculation than to the decisions of the foreign ministries.

Regarding the issue of who qualifies for asylum, the main controversy between the two countries, Paez Puma said that there are points on which we agree and [words indistinct].

EMBASSY OCCUPIERS INCREASE DEMANDS; SECURITY REINFORCED

PA200056 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2230 GMT 19 Feb 80 PA

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 19 Feb (LATIN)--The young leftists who are occupying the Belgian and Danish embassies today increased their demands, while security forces reinforced guards at other diplomatic missions.

Some 30 members of a self-styled National Independent Committee for Political Prisoners and Persecuted and Missing Persons entered the embassies yesterday and demanded the release of 120 alleged political prisoners and information on 600 missing persons. However, a spokesman for the group of 17 youth who are occupying the Danish Embassy told this agency today that his organization is also seeking the reinstatement of 25 dismissed workers and distribution of land to peasants in Puebla State.

The leftists and the embassy spokesman said yesterday that the diplomats and staff are allowed to move around freely within the building. The Belgian Embassy said today that Ambassador Renald Wateeuw and the 14 members of his staff are carrying out their duties normally and go in and out without any interference.

Some 150 supporters of the occupiers today organized a peaceful demonstration in front of the Mexican Interior Ministry to request the release of the political prisoners. The police took no steps to disperse the demonstrators, who shouted slogans and held up placards.

The Mexican Government maintains that there are no political prisoners in jail and denies that the authorities have been involved in the disappearance of political activists.

While the main political organizations denounced the occupations, Chief of Police Arturo Durazo Moreno ordered reinforced guards around foreign embassies.

Felipe Martinez Soriano, leader of the committee, yesterday threatened other occupations if its demands are not met.

Persons at the Danish Embassy stated that they have been allowed to go out to purchase food after obtaining guarantees from the police that they would be allowed to return to the embassy premises.

Government Begins Evacuation Negotiations

PA200330 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0214 GMT 20 Feb 80 PA

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 19 Feb (EFE)--The government, through the Government Secretariat (Interior Ministry), undertook negotiations today for the evacuation of the Belgian and Danish embassies in Mexico. However, nothing has been disclosed regarding the talks or on whether the government will meet the occupiers' demands, which include the release of 113 political prisoners and the presentation of 623 missing persons.

Gustavo Iruegas, Foreign Secretariat spokesman, said the necessary efforts are being made for a nonviolent evacuation, with absolute safety for the diplomats who have been held since yesterday. He added that at no time has thought been given to a forceful eviction of the members of the National Democratic Peoples Front (FNDP) and of the National Committee for the Defense of Prisoners, Persecuted, Missing Persons and Political Exiles. He explained that the police will intervene only on the "express request" of the Belgian and Danish ambassadors.

Felipe Martinez Soriano, FNDP leader and former rector of the Oaxaca Autonomous University, represents the occupiers in the negotiations. He reiterated that they will not leave the embassies until their demands are met.

Three Freed at Danish Embassy

NC201014 Paris AFP in English 1005 GMT 20 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Copenhagen, Feb. 20 (AFP)--Nineteen Mexican demonstrators barricaded in the entry lobby of the Danish Embassy in Mexico City have allowed three people trapped in the embassy to leave, informed sources have said today. Those released were a pregnant Mexican typist and two telephone company employees who happened to be inside when militants invaded the Danish and Belgian embassies on Monday. Both embassies are in the same building.

Danish Ambassador Vagn Hoelgaard and the eight remaining embassy staffers declined to escape down a ladder raised to a fifth floor window, the source said. But they hoisted food, mail and down quilts in a bucket on a rope in order to spend a more comfortable night than their first night of captivity. The militants reportedly are demanding the release of more than 100 political prisoners in Mexico, news on the fate of 600 missing people, the rehiring of discharged workers and distribution of land to peasants in Puebla Province.

LEFTIST DEPUTIES CONDEMN HENRY KISSINGER'S VISIT

FL192326 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 19 Feb 80 FL

[Text] Mexico City--Three deputies have repudiated the presence in Mexico of the former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and asserted that he is the principal promoter of a third world war using the banner of anticommunism as Hitler and Mussolini did in their time.

Deputies (Gerardo Unzueta), (Robert Jaramillo) and (Francisco Ortiz Mendoza) of the Communist Party, Popular Socialist Party and Revolutionary Socialist Party, respectively, emphasized in statements to the press that Kissinger represents the most reactionary interests of the United States and is a spearhead for imperialist domination. (Unzueta) said that it is clear to public opinion that Kissinger represents the most reactionary sectors of the U.S. monopolistic capital and is one of the persons who have exercised the most influence for intervention in the domestic affairs of countries that are seeking sovereignty and political and economic independence.

IRANIAN AMBASSADOR ANNOUNCES RESTRUCTURING OF OIL PRICES

PA140028 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0215 GMT 13 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 12 Feb (EFE)--Iran's charge d'affaires in Mexico, Manolichenr Kasemi [as received], said here today that Iran is "very seriously" studying re-adjusting the export price of its crude oil. Kasemi said the objective is to make hydrocarbons more accessible to underdeveloped nations. Kasemi said a new price would also be established for the sale of crude to industrialized nations. With these changes, Iran would be selling crude according to each government's needs. Iran currently sells a large amount of its oil to multinational companies.

Referring to the suspension of crude oil sales to the United States, Kasemi said "all we should do is wait to see if trade relations can be resumed." Kasemi stressed that his country will not allow any foreign power to interfere in its affairs.

COLUMNIST PONDERS RESULTS OF UN COMMISSION ON SHAH

PA191648 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 19 Feb 80 p 6A PA

["A Storm is Brewing" by Ricardo Lince]

[Text] It seems that in a couple of weeks, Panama will have to face a decision to be adopted by the UN Security Council regarding the recommendations to be made by the commission probing Iran's grievances against the former shah presently living in Panama.

In view of the overwhelming evidence against the shah, the commission, created with U.S. approval, is expected to find the shah guilty. It will probably ask Panama, who is a member of the United Nations, to turn the shah over to Iran in exchange for the release of the 50 U.S. hostages.

In this way the honor of the United States would not be affected. It would not have to trample existing principles or adopt a humiliating position which goes against its history and which was forced on it by the Iranian terrorists to save the lives of the hostages. What attitude would Panama adopt? Would President Royo insist on not delivering the former shah to Iran? Would not a request by the UN Security Council for Panama to hand over the shah place Panama in a difficult position? Would it not be something like defying the United Nations? If Panama were to hand over the shah, would it not be like saying that Panama is a puppet acting to help the United States save face?

These and other questions are being asked by the people, who have gone as far as to say that President Royo's visit to the United States is related to the coming storm. What is really at stake is Panama's sincerity when it granted the shah asylum for humanitarian reasons, to help maintain peace, and to maintain Panama's tradition of humane solidarity with, and protection of, political refugees.

It is known that the Iranian people will not be content with flimsy resolutions or moral condemnations which they would regard as a mockery of Iran. What is being hatched is a simple exchange: the shah for 50 hostages, in an unprecedented maneuver which might help to grant official status to governmental terrorism like that practiced by Tehran. We should analyze the situation carefully because Panama is in the eye of the coming hurricane.

FUEL PRICES INCREASED 16 FEBRUARY

PA171642 Panama City STAR & HERALD in English 17 Feb 80 pp 1, 10A PA

[Excerpt] Fuel prices, increased by as much as 29 percent, went into effect yesterday throughout the Republic of Panama.

High octane gasoline went from $1.56 to $1.98 per gallon and regular gasoline from $1.45 to $1.86 per gallon, according to a spokesman for the gasoline retail dealers.

Diesel fuel was increased to $1.15 from $.98 per gallon and domestic liquid gas (propane) rose 15 percent, from $4.66 to $5.51 for the 25-lb container.

The price hikes coincide with the closing of the 1979-80 scholastic year and the beginning of carnival, one of the most traditional festivities in the country.

HONDURAS, EL SALVADOR FOREIGN MINISTERS DEFINE PEACE PLAN

PA191454 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Positive results were attained from the first official contact between Fidel Chavez Mena and Eliseo Perez Cadalso, the foreign ministers of El Salvador and Honduras, respectively, during their meeting in San Jose yesterday.

They have decided on a work plan that will be executed over the next 3 weeks and which seeks to initiate negotiations that will result in peace between the two nations.

It was decided to work on five of the seven points contained in the mediation agreement on which consensus has been reached regarding procedures that had been pending and on which the written portion of the mediation plan has been completed.

If the pending points in the mediation agreement are completed, it has been decided to hold a meeting of Foreign Ministers Eliseo Perez Cadalso and Fidel Chavez Mena with mediator Jose Luis Bustamante y Rivero. The date for the meeting will be fixed within a few days, after Dr Bustamente y Rivero has been consulted. Negotiations to seek peace between Honduras and El Salvador will be held in San Jose, the foreign ministers of both countries decided.

After meeting for 6 hours, Perez Cadalso and Chavez Mena expressed satisfaction with the results of this first contact, which reinitiated the conversations that were suspended more than 6 months ago.

The Central America isthmus is going through an historic moment when only the good will and good wishes can help us to get ahead, said Salvadoran Foreign Minister Fidel Chavez Mena. We are building the destiny and the history of our countries and we must contribute our good will to achieve it, he added.

The two foreign ministers agreed to continue negotiations on the basis of solving issues referring to peace and treaties, free transit, reclamations and differences, human rights and the family, boundaries, common market and diplomatic and consular relations. With the mediator's participation in the next 3 weeks, negotiations will be held that could lead to a definite solution to the conflict that began in 1969 and brought about an armed conflict that lasted 100 hours.

COSTA RICA

SPECIAL RATES SOUGHT FOR PRODUCTS TO MEXICO

PA192013 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 19 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Minister of Foreign Affairs Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier and Deputy Minister of Economy Jorge Corrales will leave for Mexico tomorrow for the purpose of implementing at least four existing bilateral foreign trade treaties and to seek preferential treatment for our products on the Mexican market.

According to marketing studies conducted by government organizations, Mexico offers great possibilities for several Costa Rican products. However, there is special legislation that imposes heavy duties on these products. For this reason an attempt will be made to obtain preferential treatment based on treaties that were signed several years ago but which have not been implemented.

SECURITY MINISTER TESTIFIES IN ARMS PURCHASE INVESTIGATION

PA200055 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 19 Feb 80 PA

[Excerpt] The minister of public security, who this morning attended the meeting of the committee investigating the possible militarization of our country, said that persons like Mario Charpentier deserve his respect and confidence. Perhaps he committed a procedural error, but not a moral error, he commented.

The arms that we now have are the ones that were bought by Charpentier. This was declared by the present minister of security when he said that the ministry has 6,150 30-caliber rifles that were bought by former Minister Charpentier at a very reasonable price for the nation. We have lent some to the Social Rehabilitation Department, so we have 5,733 rifles in public security, the minister added.

In view of the constant questions by Deputy Brenes, the minister of public security said that he does not have the documents on the purchase of the weapons, but that they even bear the markings of NATO and that furthermore, the military attache of the United States, who was also involved in the purchase, had told him that these were the weapons that were bought by former Minister Charpentier.

EL SALVADOR

ARCHBISHOP SENDS LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER

PA192300 San Salvador La Voz Panamericana in Spanish 0745 GMT 18 Feb 80 PA

[Station Editorial: Reading of "text" of San Salvador archbishop's letter to President Carter]

[Text] We want to emphasize that our spiritual leader Monsignor Romero asked the people for permission before sending the letter. The people's reply was the longest and most resounding applause ever heard at the cathedral. Therefore his letter has the approval of the humble people of El Salvador. Its text reads as follows:

San Salvador, 17 February 1980.

Your Excellency, President of the United States of America, James Carter.

Mr President, in recent days the local press published a news item which has caused me great concern. According to it your government is considering the possibility of giving economic and military aid to the present government junta.

Since you are a Christian and have said you want to defend human rights, I will presume to give you my pastoral point of view on this report and make a specific request.

I am greatly concerned by the news that the U.S. Government is studying ways to promote El Salvador's arms race by sending military equipment and advisers to train three Salvadoran battalions in logistics, communications and intelligence. If this report is true, your government's contribution, instead of promoting greater peace and justice in El Salvador, would undoubtedly serve to make more acute the injustices and repression against those groups who have often strived to obtain respect for their most fundamental rights.

The present government junta, especially the armed forces and security bodies, unfortunately have not demonstrated their ability to solve the nation's acute political and organizational problems. They have only practiced repressive violence resulting in a greater number of dead and wounded than the recent regimes whose systematic violation of human rights were denounced by the International Human Rights Commission.

The brutal manner in which the security forces recently evicted and murdered the occupants of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] headquarters, even though apparently the government junta and the PDC did not authorize the operation, is evidence that the junta and the PDC do not rule the country.

Political power is in the hands of unscrupulous officers who only know how to repress the people and favor the interests of the Salvadoran oligarchy.

If it is true that last November a group of six Americans came to El Salvador bringing gas masks and bulletproof vests and trained the military on their use against demonstrations, then you must also know that it is evident that since that time, the security corps, with greater personal protection and efficiency, has repressed the people still more violently by using deadly weapons.

Therefore, as a Salvadoran and archbishop of the San Salvador archdiocese, it is my duty to insure that faith and justice prevail in my country. I ask you, if you really want to defend human rights, then do not authorize military aid to the Salvadoran Government and also guarantee that your government will not directly or indirectly intervene with military, economic, or diplomatic pressures to decide the fate of the Salvadoran people.

At this time we are living with a serious economic and political crisis in our country. However, the people have gained a growing awareness and have begun to become the responsible architects of Salvador's future and to overcome the crisis.

It would be unjust and regrettable for the Salvadoran people to be frustrated by the intervention of foreign powers and to be kept from shaping the political and economic plans to be followed by our country. This would violate a right which the Latin American bishops meeting in Puebla publicly acknowledged. Specifically, this is the people's right to legitimate self-determination by allowing them to organize according to their own spirit in the march of their history and cooperate in a new international economic order.

I hope that your religious feelings and your awareness of human rights will move you to accept my petition and avoid greater bloodshed in this long-suffering country. Respectfully, Oscar Arnulfo Romero, archbishop of San Salvador.

ISRAELI EMBASSY MAY CLOSE; OCCUPATIONS CONTINUE

PA191343 Paris AFP in Spanish 0326 GMT 19 Feb 80 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 18 Feb (AFP)--The Israeli Government will close its embassy in San Salvador, it was learned today from unofficial sources.

It is being said in diplomatic circles that the Israeli Government is citing economic reasons for its decision but that probably the most important reason for closing the embassy is the fact that several of its diplomats have been threatened by leftist groups.

It is being unofficially rumored that the embassy will be closed in 1 or 2 weeks.

The FRG and UK governments have already closed their embassies in this country.

Meanwhile, a group of workers, members of the Peoples Revolutionary Bloc have occupied the Labor Ministry's offices in Santa Ana, 64 km west of this capital, and are holding 35 hostages topress for their labor demands.

Several members of the Salvadoran National Teachers' Association also occupied today for similar reasons the Teachers Welfare Department at the Education Ministry.

BPR MILITANTS ABANDON BANK, RELEASE 60 HOSTAGES

PA191906 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1824 GMT 19 Feb 80 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 19 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--The militants of the Peoples Revolutionary Bloc [BPR] who occupied the state-owned Agriculture and Livestock Development Bank [BFA] on Thursday vacated the premises at noon today. The BFA is in charge of state loans to agricultural cooperatives and small privately-owned farms.

The members of the Salvadoran Christian Peasants Federation [FECCAS] and the Farm-Workers Union [UTC] were demanding a reduction in the price of farming material and in the interest rates charged by the bank.

FECCAS and UTC form the Farmworkers Federation [FTC], which in turn is affiliated with the BPR.

Upon leaving the bank the FECCAS and UTC members released some 60 hostages who they had been holding since Thursday. Earlier 290 hostages were released.

The BPR currently holds approximately 140 hostages in six other occupied government institutions.

ELECTRIC POWER STATIONS SEIZED; WORKERS WARN AUTHORITIES

PA181541 San Salvador EL INDEPENDIENTE in Spanish 15 Feb 80 pp 1, 2 PA

[Text] "All 13 electric power relay stations in El Salvador have been seized and are under the control of Workers Union of CEL Enterprise [STECEL] members, who are ready to cut off electric power throughout the country if the criminal Christian Democratic-military government represses any of the activities the people are planning for the next few days," Hector Bernabe Resinos, STECEL and Salvadoran Workers National Union Federation (FENASTRAS) secretary general, said at a news conference at the Salandra Building. Mario Ernesto Cabrera, STECEL social welfare secretary, and Jose Arnulfo Grande, Stecel organization secretary, were also present.

"We want to express our strongest protest to the Salvadoran people and the world over the assassination of the worker, Jose Armando Salinas, killed last Wednesday in his room in Ahuachapan. Combined military forces under the command of an officer named Reyes broke into his room, where he was resting in his underwear after doing a hard day's work and shot him in cold blood. [quotation marks as published]

Not satisfied with this crime they searched the room and stole 7,000 colones, of which 6,000 belonged to the union. This money was to pay for union members' transportation to the general meeting on 17 February. [paragraph continues]

The other 1,000 colones belonged to Salinas who had been paid the same say he was killed.

The official version of the incident says there was a confrontation. This is false because the authorities and newspapers said Salinas was found in his underwear.

A person cannot resist military force under those conditions. He probably tried to defend himself because our colleague Salinas was a brave man. We don't know whether he was a member of the Revolutionary People's Army or of any other popular or political organization. This could possibly be because any citizen who loves his country can belong to any of these organizations, he said.

"We cannot remain indifferent in the face of so many shameful acts. Honest citizens must make a decision and realize that there is no alternative. The fact is that no one can remain indifferent any longer."

"I wish to inform you that the seizure of the power stations and the state of emergency declared at every relay station is to guarantee that all activities scheduled for today and the next few days will not be repressed. Any attempted repression will be met by STECEL with an immediate cutoff of electric power.

"The enemies have deadly weapons, but we also have powerful weapons with which we can hit the oligarchy until they are exterminated if we want to. Union members who are bank employees have reported that a 2-hour stoppage has been called at the Bank of El Salvador and its branches to reject the ridiculous salary increase offered by bank directors. The stoppage has been called by SIGREBAN (Bank Employees Union). Most bank employees belong to this union. They have broken all the taboos created by the oligarchy and realize they are part of the working class and not a special breed and that they have been exploited like the other workers.

The bank employees stoppage ended at 1200 yesterday.

"Depending on circumstances and the attitude assumed by the repressive forces and the 'revolutionary' government junta, the unions will call for a nationwide general strike.

"The trade unions national commission met recently with all union leaders to make final arrangements for the strike. This was a meeting of the Trade Unions Federal Council in which workers of the electric power industry, of ANDA (National Water Department), of the fishing industry, transportation industry, coffee industry, textile industry, banks and others were present. A state of emergency was declared among other things and the basis for a nationwide general strike was established. This response, unleashed by the people and in which FENASTRAS will call in due time, is in reply to the criminal repression.

"We have definite evidence that the nefarious parties who are directing the activities of criminal organizations such as the National Board Front (FAN), White Warriors Union (UGB), Armed Forces for Anticommunist Liberation and War of Elimination (FALANGE) and other death organization are led by Major Roberto D'Aubuisson and 'Chele' Medrano. These two are still in charge of the political police and of the National Security Agency of El Salvador (ANSESAL). They are the ones planning massacres and deciding who is to be assassinated with the approval of the notorious government junta.

"Before finishing, we want to express our indignation at the massacring of students of the Movement of Revolutionary High School Students (MERS) and at the treacherous and criminal eviction carried out at the Christian Democratic Party headquarters. Both actions are the same. It is the work of a mastermind. Both acts were conceived and carried out in a similar manner.

"The two rations of blood served to the beasts in the same day will only serve to oper their big appetite again, but the people are prepared to stop the beasts," he concluded.

"To express their indignation and grief at the death of our colleague Julio Armando Salinas in Ahuachapan, who was killed by repressive forces, the workers of the electric industry throughout the country have agreed to carry out partial stoppages in Ahuachapan Department and the rest of the country during the funeral which will be attended by thousands of persons.

"We are also reporting that at noon today four of our colleagues were arrested in Sonsonate. Therefore, we are warning the military junta that we will continue with partial stoppages until our colleagues are released," announced STECEL organization Secretary Jose Arnulfo Grande.

PDC'S DUARTE ELECTED SECRETARY GENERAL

PA150120 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 13 Feb 80 p 86 PA

[Text] Jose Napoleon Duarte was elected secretary general of the Christian Democratic Party (PDC) during a National Assembly meeting held the night before last. According to reports Duarte will replace Dr Jose Antonio Morales Ehrlich, who cannot continue performing his duties because he is a member of the revolutionary government junta. "This does not mean Morales Ehrlich is leaving the party but that the two positions are incompatible," a source added.

The meeting was held in a private home since the 28 February People's Leagues were still holding the party headquarters. "The vote was unanimous and it was not necessary to present other candidates," it was reported.

PDC members from the countryside, from the capital and on the municipal councils, as well as Executive Council members, turned out for the assembly meeting, the source said in conclusion.

BISHOP PREDICTS FALL OF GOVERNMENT SOON

PA142026 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 14 Feb 80 PA

[Text] The fall of the Salvadoran Government is imminent, according to the statements made here this morning by Msgr Freddy Delgado, secretary of the Salvadoran Episcopal Conference.

In statements made to RCN today, the Salvadoran bishop said his country is at war and is facing a process similar to that which occurred recently in Nicaragua.

He said that vast sectors of the Salvadoran population are demanding a strong government such as the one that is ruling Chile and he showed concern over the present war situation being faced in El Salvador.

[Begin recording] Because of the government's transitory nature and because according to the Constitution its mission is only temporary, the government will have to yield power in order to hold elections for the president, for the Legislative Assembly and for city mayors.

An analysis of the present political situation tells us that the fall could happen soon because with the seizure of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] headquarters, the freeing of the hostages by the armed forces--the daughter of one of the members of the government junta, Morales Ehrlich of the PDC, was being held hostage--a confrontation began in which four guerrillas and one policeman died and some 19 guerrillas were arrested.

With this, the PDC has been talking and expressing itself against the government and it is foreseen that the PDC will withdraw from the government.

With this, we will again be facing a situation--and this is being predicted--where the people will demand that a strong government be established in the style of Chile. [end recording]

GUATEMALA

SALVADORAN FOREIGN MINISTER HOLDS TALKS WITH PRESIDENT

PA151353 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 6 Feb 80 p 2 PA

[Text] Dr Fidel Chavez Mena, Salvadoran foreign minister, who is visiting Guatemala, yesterday met for almost 3 hours with the president of the republic and with Foreign Minister Castillo Valdez to discuss various topics related to the political climate in Central America.

The Salvadoran foreign minister, accompanied by Dr Francisco Bertrand Galindo, his country's ambassador to Guatemala, met in the morning with Minister Castillo Valdez. At about noon, they were received by President Lucas Garcia in the Presidential Palace, where they had lunch.

The Salvadoran official is making a tour of Central America. He has already visited Nicaragua and Costa Rica. Yesterday he arrived in Guatemala and today he will return to his country.

What Was Discussed

On being interviewed by PRENSA LIBRE, Chavez Mena said courteously that the purpose of his visit was to establish a more personal relationship with top Guatemalan authorities.

He said, "I met with President Lucas Garcia to inform him that the agreements and the close relationship which have always existed between our two countries will not change at any time, regardless of changes in government authorities in El Salvador."

"I am a new official in my country," he said, "and my first official act is geared toward establishing a personal contact with Central American authorities."

Foreign Ministers Meeting

"I also exchanged ideas with Foreign Minister Castillo Valdez to discuss, among other things, a possible meeting of Central American foreign ministers.

"No dates have been set for this meeting," he said, "but I believe that it should take place shortly."

The Honduras Case

PRENSA LIBRE also asked the Salvadoran foreign minister about the actions taken by the Government of Honduras to end the dispute that has existed between El Salvador and Honduras for several years.

"It is the policy of the Salvadoran Government junta," he said, to strengthen even further the relations with brother countries on the isthmus. In line with this policy, talks will be held to end the dispute with Honduras.

Dr Chavez Mena left the National Palace shortly after 1500. His counterpart, Engineer Rafael Castillo Valdez, accompanied him to his car.

PEOPLE'S GUERRILLA ARMY CLAIMS CREDIT FOR FURLANG KILLING

PA191944 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 19 Feb 80 PA

[Text] The Guatemalan People's Guerrilla Army [EGP] has assumed responsibility for the execution of Col Jose Fernando Ruiz Furlang, third in command in the military zone of Jutiapa. Ruiz was killed on Sunday by an armed commando group in a residential district of Guatemala City.

A document sent to the media in this connection asserts that Colonel Ruiz participated in 1979 in repressive actions against the Armed People's Organization in the Guatemalan Department of San Marcos and directed punitive actions in 1975 against peasants in the area of Ixcan, in El Quiche Department.

HONDURAS

STANDARD FRUIT COMPANY WORKERS DECLARE STRIKE

PA151254 Paris AFP in Spanish 0043 GMT 15 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 14 Feb (AFP)--Six thousand workers of the Transnational Banana Standard Fruit Company operating on Honduras' Atlantic coast today began an indefinite strike claiming that the company has not fulfilled several clauses of a labor agreement.

The strike has paralyzed the company's shops, piers, railroads, and banana plantations in La Ceiba on the north Atlantic coast.

Strike leaders warned that if the U.S. multinational company does not respect the clauses on working conditions by Friday, workers of affiliated activities will join the strike.

Manuel de Jesus Gonzalez, president of the Standard Fruit Company's workers union said that the union has been presenting their just claims to the company's executives since 1979 but that they have not been heeded. The workers are demanding "just salaries for overtime, because at present the company is applying pay scales at will."

The labor leader also deplored that the Labor Ministry's commission this week had failed to mediate in the conflict because of the company's refusal to heed the workers demands.

Gonzalez said that the union is willing to meet with the company "as long as the company is ready to deal justly with the workers' needs and rights."

NICARAGUA

PRIVATE SECTOR GROUP GOES TO U.S. TO SUPPORT LOAN

PA191520 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 19 Feb 80 PA

[Excerpts] A delegation of the Superior Council of Private Enterprise [COSEP] left today for the United States to support the $75 million loan currently being debated in the U.S. Senate.

The delegation included Nicaraguan Development Institute representative William Baez, and Chamber of Commerce officials Reynaldo Hernandez and Enrique (Treywood).

According to Chamber of Commerce President Reynaldo Hernandez, he is going to the United States to support the $75 million loan for our country and to reaffirm trust in our Sandinist revolutionary government's just and honest administration of public funds.

Here are Hernandez' words before leaving for the United States:

[Begin Hernandez recording] The private sector, represented by members of the directorates of several organizations, is heading for Washington to support the $75 million loan. We think this loan is of vital importance for our country and since the final debate on the loan will take place this week, our views as businessmen will help clear the views of many people in order to make their vote positive.

We think the private sector will explain different and very positive viewpoints, as there are certain people who do not understand our situation and tend to view us negatively. We believe that in this context, the private sector's participation--which is independent from that of the public sector--will help those people understand our situation better and give us their support. It is within this context that COSEP is going to the United States.

[Question] I suppose you already have some information about the views in Washington opposing the loan?

[Answer] Not particularly. In a country such as the United States, different views exist and there are people who do not clearly understand a given situation. We can explain the Nicaraguan situation to them. We think this effort is worthwhile because Nicaragua needs this money and we are always ready to help undertake any action aimed at positive objectives.

[Question] Has it already been decided how this loan will be used, Mr Hernandez?

[Answer] The government has its plans. A large part of this $75 million loan will be used to develop the private sector--60 percent for the private sector and 40 percent for the public sector. But the total amount will be used by our country to buy a number of things we need to move ahead in the reactivation plan. We feel that by strengthening the private sector, the entire country is being strengthened because the private sector generates jobs, pays taxes and creates wealth that is later distributed to all citizens through various channels. This is the idea. I think things should not be viewed as benefiting one sector or another; they should be viewed from a national standpoint. Our entire people are being benefited and this is the most important thing at this point. [end recording]

GRANTING OF CAYS TO COLOMBIA BY SPANISH CROWN DENIED

PA191926 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0300 GMT 19 Feb 80 PA

[Excerpt] The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry has protested and denied a Bogota-datelined press report that Nicaragua wants to claim sovereignty over the San Andres and Providencia Islands and the Roncador, Quitasueno and Serrana cays which were given to Colombia by the Spanish Crown. The Foreign Ministry protests the correspondent's tendentious report, which is contrary to history fact and adequate legal criteria because the 1803 Royal Spanish Order instructed the Santa Fe Viceroyship in Nueva Granada, Colombia merely to watch over and protect those territories, but never granted it possession or dominion over them, Foreign Ministry official Eligio Alvarez Montalvan said.

IMF CONDITIONS FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES CRITICIZED

PA191313 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 18 Feb 80 PA

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] All the progressive forces and popular sectors of Jamaica have expressed full support for Prime Minister Michael Manley in his rejection of the conditions which the IMF wishes to impose in order to refinance a loan to that Caribbean country.

Acceptance of these demands, Manley said in an address to the nation, would represent a social and administrative disaster for Jamaica.

In essence, the IMF is demanding that the Jamaican Government eliminate $150 million from its budget for this fiscal year, which would mean unemployment for 11,000 government workers, elimination of subsidies for transportation and staples, abolition of free education at higher levels and elimination of all social benefit programs.

The IMF, a loan organization which is controlled by the United States, is among the many mechanisms available to the imperialists to subdue developing countries. Any country which requests an IMF loan must permit the organization's experts to supervise the state of their economy, their finances and their reserves. In addition, it must devalue its currency, reduce its budget expenses--primarily expenditures designed to meet social needs--and open wide its doors to foreign investment.

No nation which accepts the IMF demands will be able to implement comprehensive socio-economic changes, restrict activities of the imperialist consortiums or expand the state sector of the economy.

Governments which unconditionally accept the model imposed by the IMF in effect undermine national sovereignty. Proof of this is the case of Uruguay, where a fascist tyranny, based on the guidance of the IMF, has accentuated the country's dependence, provoked an acute economic crisis and lowered the standard of living of the great majority of the population to unbearable levels. On the other hand, wealth has been increasingly concentrated in the hands of foreign consortiums and the Uruguayan financial oligarchy.

According to a Montevideo newspaper, the IMF recipe has been and continues to call for pitiless austerity and systematic disregard for all the painful social effects that the organization not only advocates, but demands.

To give advice regarding inflation and the budget deficit while dismissing the results in unemployment and poverty that come from such suggestions presupposes an executioner's state of mind, a posture which the IMF has never hesitated to assume.

In Peru, commitments made with the IMF required a drastic reduction of fiscal expenditures, leading to the dismissal of thousands of government workers. The demands of the IMF also were reflected in the elimination of subsidies for staples, which stimulated a wave of price increases and as a result an increase in the inflationary spiral.

The peoples of Bolivia, Mexico and other countries of our America have also been the victims of the one-sided conditions imposed by the IMF. It is worthy of note that while the Somozist tyranny was engaged in the most brutal genocide of the Nicaraguan people, the IMF granted him a loan of several million dollars. The United States, which practically has veto power over the IMF decisions, alleges on that occasion that it could not object because these loans are not subject to political conditions.

However, everyone knows that the United States prevented the IMF and other financial organizations controlled by Washington from granting any loans to the Chilean Popular Unity government.

In his speech inaugurating the sixth summit meeting of the nonalined countries, Cuban chief of state Fidel Castro noted that progressive governments engaged in a noble effort for the development and welfare of their respective countries are overwhelmed and at times even eliminated by economic difficulties and the one-sided and antipopular conditions imposed by the IMF and other international loan organizations.

Fidel Castro added: We Cubans, who have been excluded from the IMF by imperialist will, are no longer very sure whether this constitutes a punishment or a privilege.

EXPERTS STRESS SERIOUSNESS OF OIL SPILL DAMAGE

PA172143 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Cuban experts agree on the seriousness of the damages caused to the ecology and the marine environment by the oil spill resulting from the accident involving the Greek tanker Princess Anne-Marie, which a few days ago ran aground in the Corriente Cape area, south of Cuba's Pinar del Rio Province.

Dr Bernardino Alvarez (Beldet), chief of the maritime department of the Cuban Transport Ministry's juridical directorate, has told the newspaper JUVENTUD REBELDE that losses amount to several million pesos and that the damages will appreciably affect the revenues derived from catching lobsters and from tourism.

Julio (Baisre), assistant director at the Fishing Research Center, has stressed that all the species typical to the Cuban Continental Shelf, including some of great commerical importance, can be found in the affected area.

Dr Carlos Martinez Reyes, president of the National Committee for the Protection of the Environment and the Preservation of Natural Resources, has underscored that not only the marine areas have been damaged, but the coastal areas as well. For instance, he said, 90 percent of our reserves of the plant [words indistinct], which constitutes the basic food of crustaceans, have been affected, as have been the iguana grass, the beach purslane [verdolaga] and the coastal [word indistinct].

Carlos Garci, an oceanographer at the Fishing Research Center, has explained that in terms of pollution, the damage is continuing since harmful hydrocarbon particles are still present in the water.

SWINE FEVER RESOLUTION ISSUED IN MATANZAS

FL192015 Matanzas Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 19 Feb 80 FL

[Text] The Matanzas Province Veterinary Medicine Institute has issued Resolution No 06 concerning the prevention of swine fever following the outbreak of the fever in some parts of the eastern territory. The resolution calls for private hog breeding concerns, whether on individual or state-owned land, to be banned from population centers and surroundings since the disease may spread from their poor hygiene and sanitary conditions. There is also the possibility that their owners may eat the meat from those hogs.

CARICOM PLANS CLOSER FOREIGN POLICY COOPERATION

FL182127 Kingston Domestic Service in English 2030 GMT 18 Feb 80 FL

[Text] Overseas missions of member countries of the Caribbean Community--CARICOM--are to [words indistinct] arrangements for possible closer cooperation in foreign policy matters. This has been announced in Georgetown, Guyana, by CARICOM Secretary General Dr Kurleigh King following the decision by the region's foreign ministers, who widened consultation procedures and deepened cooperation in this field.

The decision was taken at this month's meeting of foreign ministers in St Lucia and, according to Dr King, the region's overseas missions will now be moving away from sporadic informal meetings on pressing issues. He said that [words indistinct] will be trying in the future to meet regularly to (?iron) out differences between them before they join the rest of the international community in the relevant forums. In reference to the ideological pluralism in the region, Dr King noted that the region's meeting of foreign ministers did not [words indistinct] specifically on this issue. He noted, however, that the conclusion was that ideological pluralism did not pose any real threat (?to the) preservation of the CARICOM relationship.

JAMAICA URGES CARICOM TO ADOPT JOINT ENERGY POLICY

FL142215 Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 11 Feb 80 p 3 FL

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, 10 Feb (CANA)--The unrestricted gallop of oil prices have left the economies of Caribbean states in tatters and to the point where Jamaica feels that the situation has reached crisis proportions.

In a grim 13-page presentation to the just concluded meeting of Caribbean Community (CARICOM) foreign ministers, Jamaica made a number of sweeping recommendations for urgent joint action by regional states on the question of energy.

That northern Caribbean country which puts its energy bill for this year at US $510 million, (over 50 per cent of projected export earnings), says that energy prices will be the single most important factor constraining the development of Third World states in the future.

"It is with full cognizance of this situation that Jamaica has over the past seven years made numerous attempts in both multilateral and bilateral forums to have the energy question discussed.

"We have continuously advocated the need for CARICOM countries to come together to find a common solution to this problem which affects us all...", the paper said.

An energy strategy, it said, must be based on both short-term and long-term prospects, and be able to operate at national, regional and multilateral levels.

"In the short run, CARICOM countries are in desperate need of bilateral arrangements which will ease the foreign exchange burden as well as given assured access to supplies of petroleum energy. The most feasible would seem to be the oil-exporting countries of this region (Mexico, Venezuela, Ecuador and Trinidad and Tobago).

"If successful, this can only be regarded as a temporary panacea given dwindling petroleum supplies, unless some rebate scheme can be agreed with the petroleum suppliers."

"Even so, it will need to be borne in mind that such mechanisms will be subject to the mercy of the producer, which will seek to extract the maximum political price for concessions made," the Jamaica paper said.

It said action must now be contracted on:

A halt or reduction in real terms of the price for petroleum products:

An assurance that as the demand for energy continues to increase, CARICOM countries will be guaranteed some agreed supplies of petroleum:

All necessary external assistance to ensure that "our indigenous energy potential is realised.

Regarding long-term plans, Jamaica says that as an energy deficient region, the Caribbean needs to seek a significant shift in supply sources to ensure ample supplies at bearable prices.

But it recognized that this objective can only be attained if "a rational and controlled" international dialogue on energy is urgently initiated.

"The old energy order has now changed drastically. There is little chance that the price of crude as quoted by the suppliers will decline in future".

"It will continue to be determined by market forces and rise in real terms unless there is a devastating depression, the consequences of which would be too grim for poor countries to contemplate", the paper said.

OPEC countries, it added, had gained the support of developing countries for their right to fix their own prices but were now unwilling to discuss the subject of energy prices with anyone.

"They have viewed the attempts to have a global discussion on energy as an attempt by developing countries either to get mass compensation and hand-outs from them on the one-hand or to associate with the developed countries to restrict their sovereignty over their natural resources on the other.

Jamaica noted OPEC's claim that it spends a higher proportion of its gross national product on development aid than the industrialised states, but said that the distribution of the assistance was uneven and did not reflect the situation of the oil importing states in the region.

Giving itself as an example, Jamaica said it usually had to repay any money it obtained.

The paper observed that the stance of the oil giants appeared to be changing with a new sensitivity to the problems of the Third World countries.

"CARICOM countries must now take the further step of having OPEC translate their stated concern into concrete action. We cannot allow ourselves to continue to be side-tracked by arguments of aid-giving...".

"What we need now is less expensive oil at guaranteed prices although it must be recognized that the achievement of this goal will not be without the creation of strains among the developing countries," the Jamaica paper said.

It added that a CARICOM energy policy must have as a urgent priority the need for influencing OPEC to have a differential pricing system in favour of the Third World.